



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
MARIPOSA PUSSYPAWS
Calyptridium pulchellum



CLASSIFICATION: Threatened

Federal Register Notice 63:49022; September 14, 1998

www.fws.gov/ecos/ajax/docs/federal_register/fr3303.pdf (113 KB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:

The California Native Plant Society has placed this species on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range). The State of California has not listed it.

CRITICAL HABITAT: None designated

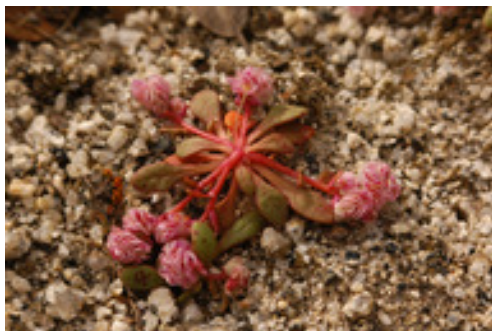
RECOVERY PLAN: None

5-YEAR REVIEW: Completed December 2007. No change recommended

www.fws.gov/ecos/ajax/docs/five_year_review/doc1871.pdf (408 KB)



Mariposa Pussypaws
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DESCRIPTION:

Mariposa pussypaws is a small, compact, attractive, annual herb belonging to the purslane family (Portulacaceae). The plant has fibrous roots and many prostrate stems. The smooth, slender stems are 1 to 2 decimeters (4-8 inches) long.

The stems form a small rosette and the leaves are spatula-shaped. Both stems and the spatula-shaped leaves have smooth surfaces.

Rose-colored, four-petalled flowers appear between May and August. These flowers grow in loose clusters at the end of stems. Anthers are yellow.

Styles are hidden within the flower. See Jepson Manual, below, for a more detailed description.

DISTRIBUTION:

This fibrous rooted plant grows in small, barren areas on decomposed granitic sands, between 460 and 1,090 m (1,500 to 3,600 ft) in the annual grasslands and woodlands in the southwestern foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. See the 5-year review, above, for more information.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Cascadel Point (397B) 3711924, Auberry (397C) 3711914, O'neals (398B) 3711926, Bass Lake (418C) 3711935, Ahwahnee (418D) 3711936, Mariposa (419B) 3711948

THREATS:

Mariposa pussypaws is threatened by urbanization, small size of populations and small number of populations across most all of its range. Its prostrate growth habit makes it a poor competitor with taller grasses and any other dense vegetation. Seed production is somewhat low for an annual.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

General references about California plants

www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm

The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California. This is the standard reference about California plants. The Manual is available in an [online version](#). See also the [Jepson Online Interchange](#) for updates.

Hinton, W. F. 1975. Systematics of the *Calyptridium umbellatum* complex (Portulacaceae). *Brittonia* 27: 197-208.

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